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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE:

SUBJECT Fortifications on the Brioni Islands

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1. Fortifications are being constructed along the coast from Val Catena to Peneda Point (Brioni Maggiore) as offensive emplacements against the port of Pola. The works are superior to those constructed by the Germans in 1943-1945.

2. Temporary Works: Semi-circular entrenchments, constructed of stone, have been built around the perimeter of the island of Brioni Maggiore and around the various permanent artillery emplacements. These emplacements which are about 50 cm deep and capable of holding three men are almost always located in the bushes along the beach and near the water.

3. Permanent Works: There are permanent artillery emplacements on the southern slopes of Mt. Cavran (Mt. Rancon towards Rancon Point). Work is being done in the rock at about fifteen meters above sea level. It does not appear that any emplacements are being constructed in caves since most of the labor is done by pick and shovel or otherwise by hand. In fact, no dynamite has been used to date. Material is transported along the coast from Port Val Catena to Point Cavran (Rancon Point). Work is also being done on the old fortifications destroyed by the Germans.

4. The 2nd Marine Battalion is on Brioni Maggiore. This battalion is composed of about 600 men and armed with four light assault artillery pieces. Other weapons include Breda machine guns and machine rifles, and British type machine guns.

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